

# ► Counterpoise ◀

## The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

August 2008

Number 8



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: August 14, 2008 7:00 pm

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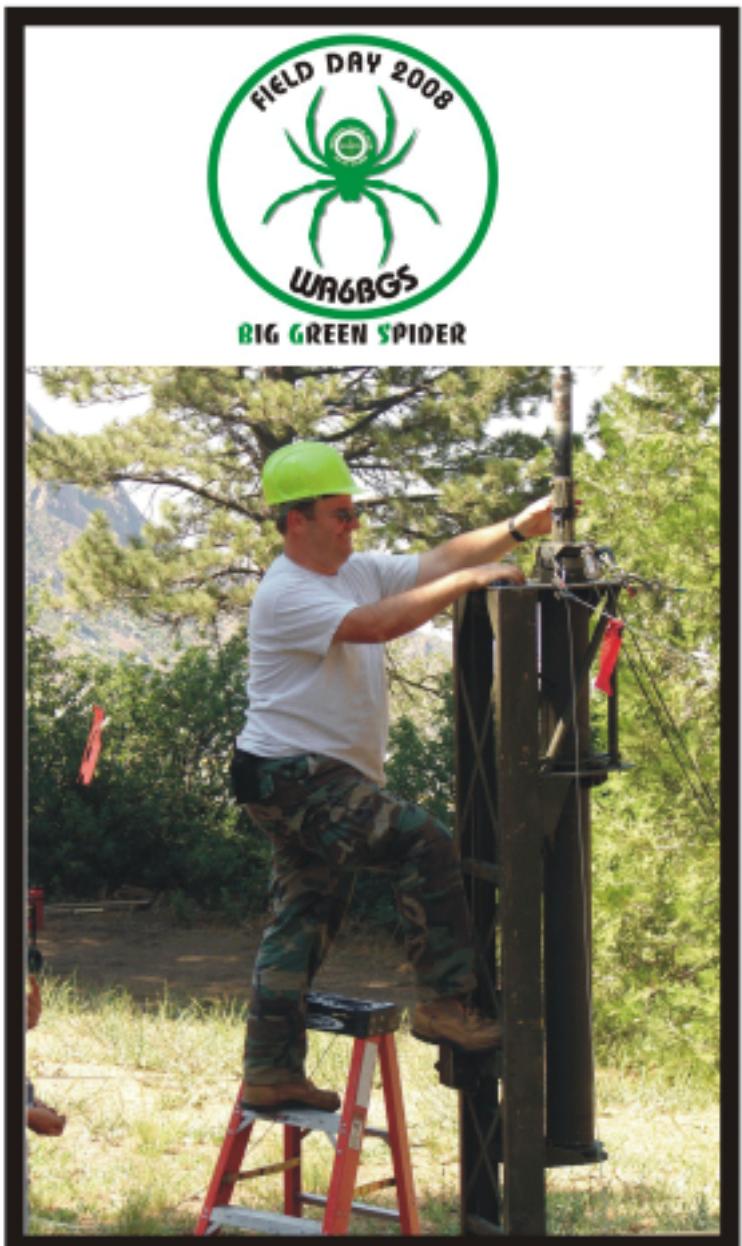
All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022  
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:  
[WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net) or by post  
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021  
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address  
[WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net)



### SPEAKER:

Mike N6OPH about SANDARC and Field Day & CAL Fire Videos

## 2008 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6ERD	Dan Severance	449-8526
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

## 2008 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
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Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
	KF6KE	Richard West	462-2771

## 2008 Standing Committees

Bylaws	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
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EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
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Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
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SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
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Welcome	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

## Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6ERD	Dan	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

## SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North  
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP  
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics  
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
**GATES OPEN 6:30 AM**

## From The President

Paul KC6QLS



Thank you to Marcia DeRuntz, KG6FIX for an informative presentation at the July meeting. I am looking forward to this month's presentation video of Field Day by Gary Kuske and to Mike Maston's presentation on SANDARC.

Please renew your ARCEC dues for 2009 during our upcoming Membership Drive, which will run from September 1, 2008 to December 1, 2008. There will be a drawing at the Christmas Party for those who renew during this time frame.

This Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, is our annual club picnic, and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Paul, KC6QLS  
President



Marcia DeRuntz, KG6FIX & Sam DeRuntz

# Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting  
10 July 2008



The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Treasurer's Report: was read and accepted and the June Minutes were accepted as published in the Counterpoise.

WAMO 2M and Digital Certificates are back on track and were awarded and OOO Certificates from Field Day were also awarded.

There was a presentation by a guest speaker, Marcia DeRuntz, KG6FIX on Handi Hams. She described the group as being dedicated to bringing the world of ham radio to the disabled no matter what disability one might have.

Visitors were introduced before the break K6JHD, KI6RUX and N6VOC.

KI6QDB won the silent auction of 5 Padres tickets.

President's Report: Paul, KC6QLS - Field Day was well planned and a lot of people attended, including 75 on Saturday. Due to the break in at the shed, they put out the call for loans of equipment so Field Day could go forward. We got lots of Coax, a line on two generators, solar panels, a vintage station and Craig Williams came by, which met the bonus of having an elected official visit.

We need volunteers for the Spotlight section of the Counterpoise; it's a get to know you piece.

The media has been kind to us this month; write ups about the break in, two write ups on Field Day by the Union Tribune and the East County Californian. Also, the Governor declared Ham Radio Week. CAL Fire had a lot of coverage, Channel 10 did a piece that went on that night and came out again on the 4<sup>th</sup> along with Channel 6. Two days ago Rich got a call from Roxanne that Ken Kramer wanted to go out and do a story. Also SOBARs was on TV with Channel 8 and Channel 39. During the four hour booth at Del Mar fair on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Larry sat in the back and talked to the kids on the radio, and it was Kids Day so kids were talking to kids. Paul's friend stopped by, and it turns out he's a Ham and now his kid and wife want to get their licenses.

Fire station #6 Open House will be on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The SANDARC Booth at the fair, Steve and Paul spent a lot of time there. SANDARC got a blue ribbon for participation. Shifts were covered every day but two days (Field Day being one). A lot of questions from people about how to get their licenses, both local and people from LA and a lot of people were looking for us at the fair since the booth had moved. Perhaps next year we need to get some more information out directing people to us.

Vice President's Report: Steve, KO4QT reported the shed was broken into the night of our last club meeting. Coax, power cables, Yagi beam, generator, etc., all in all it was about \$7000 worth of stuff. A lot of stuff was loaned to us for Field Day, and Ken Cohen bought and donated a generator, N6JOJ loaned coax and W5COM loaned an antenna and set it up, and then came back on Sunday and took it down. John Graf donated money as did the San Diego Six Shooters Amateur Radio Club. At Field Day, Rich West, KF6KE set up a board to play chess with a lot of the younger people in attendance. Due to interference, they had to set up shifts between phone and PSK-31 but with so many new hams and kids there Ed gave up most of his PSK-31 time Friday night so they could operate.

Saturday morning they set up towers and a 6M antenna and then operations continued all night long. Linda did a great job and Cal did a nice job barbequing the steaks. Next year before Field Day we need to think about investing in 6 gauge 100 foot extension cords and coax so we don't need to run around borrowing it.

There were 733 QSOs made at Field Day.

Thanks to the many group members who manned the 100 miles endurance run.

Next month there will be a Field Day slide show and a presentation by Mike, N6OPH on SANDARC.

Net Report: Mike, KG6TDP WAMO nets are going strong.

SANDARC Report: The Del Mar fair went well. They still need chairmen for the Convention. There are some one day tech classes coming up. Steve Early suggested someone step up as there is a demand for classes more often than once a year. The class in Escondido next week already has 21 signed up even though it's only been advertised for a week. Anyone can sit in on the classes to learn how to help teach more. Steve is also looking for instructors for get on the air classes (what do I do now that I have my license?). The new extra class question pool is in effect as of the beginning of this month, so you'll need to get them if you want to study.

Membership Report: 51 members this evening and 7 visitors; 180 total members; three people joined this evening and there will be three new WAMO numbers. A flyer will be on the reflector for our membership drive to get dues collected for 2009 from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, which will help the club in budgeting. The maximum value of the prize will be up to 10% of what is collected and will be determined by the Board.

Summer Club Picnic will be August 9<sup>th</sup> in La Mecita Park in La Mesa. There was some discussion about bringing whatever meat you want to be barbequed to help cut costs. Check the reflector.



Continued on page 15

## From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



I'd like to thank Marcia DeRuntz, KG6FIX for coming to our meeting last month and talking to us about the HandiHAM Program. From talking to Marcia on the HandiHAM net, it sounds like they may have found a location locally for their annual camp.

Well, August is here and that means it's time again for our annual picnic. The picnic will be at La Messita Park on Dallas Street in La Mesa. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, soda's and water will be provided. You'll need to bring your favorite side dish, chips or dessert to share with the group.

Our August meeting will be two fold. Mike Maston, N6OPH, who's the Chairman of San Diego County Amateur Radio Council (SANDARC), will talk to us about SANDARC. Then, we'll have about a 15 minute slide show of pictures taken at Field Day.

73's and see you at the meeting,

Steve, KO4QT



Tom, W5COM doing some Coax work

### WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

### WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights  
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

### Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm  
Nets held on club repeaters  
WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

### New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

## Calendar of Events August 2008

Aug. 2:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Aug. 2:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Aug. 5:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Aug. 9:	Annual Club Picnic
Aug. 14:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Aug. 16:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Aug. 16:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Aug. 20:	Counterpoise Dead Line

### Upcoming Event Dates

Oct. 4:	Open House Fire Station 6
Nov. 13:	Home Brew Contest
Nov. 23:	Mother Goose Parade
Dec. ??:	Christmas Dinner Party

## LAKESIDE MUFFLER & WELDING

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OWNER

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LAKESIDE, CA 92040



Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager  
5375 Kearny Villa Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org)

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

## Change of Address

### Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterposie. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO# \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Address:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Membership Chairperson:

A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

## ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member  Yes    no	12. ARES Member  Yes    No
13. RACES Member  Yes    No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to

**Membership Chairperson**  
A.R.C.E.C., P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ( )	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ( )  Check ( )	Check No. Date Paid:

### Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

# FUN PAGE

## Birthday

August 1	KG6IDE	George	Gross
August 1	W6KIP	Kip	Williams
August 4	WA6MHZ	Pat	Bunsold
August 4	KK6NF	Mike	Bailey
August 10	N6SZO	Joe	Corones
August 11	KK6NH	Leslie	Day
August 12	KD6HVZ	Jim	Green
August 13	AE6NA	Dave	Barnard
August 14	K6ICT	Ken	Harvey
August 14	KG6JCW	Stogie	Panger
August 17	N6EVE	Evelyn	Miller
August 18	N6WUQ	Jim	Rogers, Sr.
August 19	KD6VKZ	Ed	Ebbert
August 22	N6DVJ	Johnny	Hart
August 23	KC6NXZ	Tom	Caudle
August 23	KF6UOZ	Craig	Matheny
Auugust 24	KE6BZD	Ronald	Mahoney
August 25	KO6AB	Jerry	Miller, Jr.
August 26	KM6YF	Tom	Borg
August 29	KF6ROE	Edward	Pyne
August 31	KE6TAM	Gerald	Miller, Sr.
August 31	W1CTM	Raymond	Boisvert

## Word Search

C	L	G	E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	W	J	I	H
O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	I	E	S	G	N	T
U	A	D	J	Y	G	W	H	G	E	E	S	T	Y	F	G
N	T	S	W	K	M	E	N	T	K	W	R	R	S	L	O
T	H	G	S	D	W	R	H	Z	Q	T	G	S	W	M	R
E	R	J	D	R	I	E	C	T	I	O	N	S	E	R	J
R	K	H	R	E	S	E	A	R	H	S	W	E	S	M	A
P	G	Q	L	W	J	T	E	C	H	K	Y	T	T	D	E
O	J	W	T	H	D	V	A	W	V	G	Z	N	U	I	O
I	Y	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	H	I	D	O	N
S	T	L	R	Y	J	E	O	Y	C	J	R	Y	I	N	U
Z	L	I	C	E	M	I	D	J	P	J	U	Q	I	O	G
G	P	M	H	Q	Z	E	W	D	Y	J	K	H	G	Y	H
H	W	V	E	Q	Z	I	P	M	E	N	T	O	D	G	P
D	Y	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	L	R	K	Q	L	S
W	K	P	J	L	R	H	S	I	L	P	M	O	C	C	A

- ACCOMPLISH
- INFORMATION
- ADVENTURE
- INTERESTS
- ASSISTANCE
- LICENSE
- COUNTERPOISE
- MENTOR
- DIRECTION
- OPPORTUNITIES
- ELMER
- PATH
- EQUIPMENT
- REFERENCE
- FRIENDS
- RESEARCH
- GUIDE
- TECH
- IMMERSE
- UNIQUE
- STUDYING

## Brain Thinkers

5= D. for a G. of G.    5 Dollars for a Gallon of Gas

7= P. of W.    7 Pillars of Wisdom

9= P. in our S. S.    9 Planets in our Solar System

----- This Months -----

2= O. in a D. P.

3= S. and Y. O.

4= B. and Y. W.



## Last Months Word Search

O	H	C	O	M	P	U	T	I	N	G	H	W	Q	U	D
M	R	A	Q	T	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	Y	P	L	S
V	E	G	N	M	Q	V	H	G	N	I	R	A	H	S	S
O	P	M	A	D	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	S	Y	V	A
L	E	S	M	N	I	R	L	G	R	K	W	R	S	Q	B
U	A	W	W	U	I	H	P	Y	K	U	Q	P	I	W	
N	T	N	R	P	V	Z	A	S	E	S	N	E	C	I	
E	V	T	B	P	H	A	M	B	Q	T	V	A	N		
F	R	Q	K	E	H	W	T	L	G	H	R				
E	M	R	U	N	N	Y	R	W	I	W	Z	W			
R	W	H	L	E	K	N	Q	T	N	D	V	K	Z	R	E
S	V	P	H	F	R	W	A	D	H	N	U	G	N	S	
Q	L	U	L	T	U	H	K	S	Q	P	K	R	Y	E	
P	H	S	A	T	E	L	I	T	E	H	G	K	T	Q	
W	M	E	M	B	E	R	S	U	W	L	V	U	L	S	
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	Q	P	H	U	V
V	U	H	P	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	S	N	A	R	T

# ASK AN ELMER

**Question:** I just got my license, now what?

**Answer:**

Well, I'm glad you asked. From my own experience, my advice is that the first thing to do is develop your own Personal Reference Guide List. This list will serve you well in the future as your guide and map as you travel down the long and winding road of Amateur Radio. Your reference list can help you set your personal goals as to what you hope to accomplish in Amateur Radio and can also serve as your itinerary to the places you would like to visit in Amateur Radio. Start by doing some investigation on the internet and be sure to earmark all the places you discover so that you can quickly reference them later and in your time of need. Visit Amateur Radio related sites, club sites, ARRL site, and as many sites as you have time and choose to view. Amateur Radio is a very diverse hobby and service and there is something for everyone. However, you will have to discover what is right for you, the things you are interested in, and the places you want to visit as you do your research. Keep notes and develop your own reference library. Make a list that includes the various topics that you are interested in; the various books you would like to read on the topics that are of interest to you; the clubs you would like to visit; the Amateur Radio classes you would like to take; the conventions and seminars you would like to attend; and the volunteer opportunities and events you would like to participate in. All of this information is available on the internet and you can include what interests you on your Personal Reference Guide List.

Once your investigation is complete, get a calendar and form a plan. List the various club's meeting dates and times. Visit a club and pick up their newsletter and membership application. Then, revisit the club website, which you have already earmarked on your computer for quick reference. Is this club right for you? What is right for you? Where do you fit in? Visit another club. You will find that Amateur Radio is so diverse that many Hams belong to many clubs. Each club is different, runs by their own set of By Laws, and offers something unique. It is okay to join more than one club and to immerse yourself in Amateur Radio. The more time you spend doing research and visiting clubs, the faster you will find a place or places that meet your needs. The magic of Amateur Radio is that there is something for everyone, but the secret is that you have to be an explorer, do the research and visit various clubs to find what works for you.

Technically speaking, you can visit HRO for equipment and books or you can visit the library, the internet, ebay and the swap meet. Much of Amateur Radio is exploring and reading and updating your Personal Reference Guide List regularly. Be sure to note names, call signs, email addresses, phone numbers and the clubs where you meet Hams (Amateur Radio Operators) who have indicated that they have time and are willing to Elmer (Mentor) you in Amateur Radio. These are valuable contacts who will become your lifelong friends as you travel down the road of Amateur Radio. Note that help is available, but you have to ask and you need to be specific. Hams can be found in various fields and have various levels of experience and most are willing to help out. However, please remember to do as much research as you can and then ask an Elmer for help if you still can't figure it out. Amateur Radio is about trial and error and is a learning experience. It is expected that new Hams know the basics from studying prior to getting their license. Of course, there are lots of questions and lots of things to learn. While there is no dumb question, please remember to do your research first. Some Hams may simply refer you to a good reference book and/or website on the internet, and that's okay. Add that reference to your Personal Reference Guide List, review the book and/or website, and then if you still can't figure it out, go back and ask for additional assistance.

Now, in addition to your license and your initial learning of the basics prior to taking your test, I believe that you have the information and mind set that you will need to move forward in your journey into the world of Amateur Radio. If one path doesn't work out, choose another direction, set new goals, and set out for your new adventure down the next road in Amateur Radio. You can go wherever you want and do whatever interests you, but be sure to update your Personal Reference Guide List, reference it often, and have FUN!

Next month's question: How do I find the right HT for me and do I need all the bells and whistles for my first radio?

If you have any thoughts on this question, please email [WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net) and the Elmers will answer with your feedback. Any question that you might have, please send it in too.

**The Editor's  
Corner  
KC6QLS Paul**



**Editor's Corner**

This month we are starting our "Ask an Elmer" column. If you have any question you would like answered, please email it to me at [KC6QLS@cox.net](mailto:KC6QLS@cox.net). I hope you enjoy the new column.

If you must receive the Counterpoise by mail, please sign up on the Counterpoise by Mail List at the next meeting or contact me directly at [KC6QLS@cox.net](mailto:KC6QLS@cox.net). If you wish to receive the Counterpoise by email, please let me know. Also, the Counterpoise is on our Website.

Paul, KC6QLS

**Public Relations**

The El Cajon Fire Station Open House is coming up on October 4, 2008, and the kids will be making the wooden CW keys like we did at the fair. Also, we hope to get some kids on the air. Roxanne plans to set up their CAL Fire Booth next to our booth. Please sign up and help out at this fun event.

The picnic will be at La Messita Park on Dallas St in La Mesa. The Park is located on Dallas Street about 200 yards east of Hwy 125 on the south side of Dallas Street, if you cross the 125 you've gone too far. We'll be in the back of the park under the shelter and trees. Starting time will be around 10:00 a.m. and last until around 2 p.m.

Paul, KC6QLS

# **Volunteers Needed**

## **Up Coming Events**

Fire Station #6 Open House "ARCEC Booth"  
Please Sign up at the next meeting

## **E-Mail**

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all Counterpose Mail to:  
[WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net)

## **Prize Table Needs Help**

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

## **Things to keep in mind**

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector*

*To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

## **Quote of the Month**

"No lights, but rather darkness visible."

- ibid. 1. 63

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego

Please visit

[www.aprsd.org](http://www.aprsd.org)

## **JOKE**

*I was thinking of becoming a doctor. I have the handwriting for it.*

Lisie KI6EEK

# Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



## MY FIRST HOMEBREW RADIO

(I may have posted this several years back, but a new group of Counterpoise readers have come by so here it is again.)

Life was hard being a Teenager in 1966. I didn't get along with my parents, who demanded strict obedience, and didn't get it from me. I thought for myself, and wasn't about to have them break my spirit. So, they decided I was incorrigible and shipped me off from Chicago to central Illinois, to St Bede Academy, a boarding high school run by the Benedictine monks. I didn't see any of the sexual abuse all the people are making big claims of these days, but there were loads and loads of Physical abuse. Us scrawny kids were whipped and beaten BLOODY!!!

The classes were very tedious and boring. It was more or less a pre-training to get kids ready to become Priests. Part of the Monastery was a school for Priests. So, one of the courses I was required to take was Latin, which I failed miserably at. And, I flunked Religion too. Having such a bad record made me a target for the cruel monks, and one in particular, SCAR he was nicknamed. Maybe he got that scar in a fight with a student. He was as tough as he was mean, and would make Marine Drill instructors look like SISSYS! The food was terrible, and in the morning they would feed us this oatmeal filled with bugs! Yep, little live weevils. The Monks told us to shut up and EAT THEM, or Starve! I made friends with the Mexican Nuns in the kitchen and they understood my plight. They secretly gave me some little packaged boxes of cereal I could eat, and I stashed them in my locker. I was eating fine, until one day SCAR decided to rifle my locker and found the food cache. He picked me up and tossed me across the room into the other lockers, and then pounded on me until I was a bloody mess on the floor below. Guess I would have to eat the Weevils.

Having flunked the courses, I was "Campused" meaning I was not allowed to leave the school grounds, EVER! Any tries and I would probably be SHOT! Yes, conditions were far better inside the WW2 Concentration camps! I was a POW for sure! But about that time, I made friends with a kindly Priest who was the Science teacher. He showed me various electronics projects he had built and one was a Neon relaxation oscillator. A neon lamp would flash and flash, It had for several years on a dry cell battery. I was allowed to explore his lab and play with his resistors and capacitors. This was

indeed interesting. I would be getting an A in Science. He understood my plight and I told him of the suffering I was going through in Study hall. I had to sit probably 6 to 8 hours a day in complete silence studying. No radio, no TV, no nuttin. Just SILENCE! The quiet was driving me nuts!!! He showed me a book that had circuits of Crystal Radios in it. All you needed was an Earphone, a coil, capacitor and a diode! You could tune in the world with just a few parts. A plan was developed.

The School was right on the Illinois River, and we were allowed to walk down to the river bank and explore. The walls of the school went right up to the River. Yes, Walls just like a Prison. I don't remember if there was Barb wire on the top of them. I watched the accompanying Monks and waited until they were distracted. Diving into the river, I swam underwater until I was a ways away from the group. No one had seen me go in. I surfaced for some air and then swam some more, upstream against the current. It was tough, but bit by bit I made it past the wall and was on the other side! Looking up, I could see no one looking for me. Maybe I was safe.

I got out of the river when I was a good distance from the wall and walked along the shoreline. It was probably 5 or so miles into the town of Peru, and I was well dried by the time I made it. Walking through the town, I found where an electronics store was. I bought a 1N34 Diode, a Loopstick that tuned the broadcast band, and a tiny crystal earphone I could hide under my hair in my ear,. Quickly, I returned to the Academy where I was met by Scar. I knew I was in for another incredible beating, but that was the price I had to pay for a few hours of freedom. The parts were safe!

The next day, after recovering, I went down to the Science lab and showed the Kind Priest the parts. Together we built the Crystal radio, taking an old text book and cutting a hole in the center to mount them. I learned how to solder the few parts and he gave me an old electromagnet which had a very very fine wire on it. My desk was next to the window, and I ran the almost invisible wire out the window and up the casing to where I made a big loop of wire. No one could see it.

It was time for study hall, and Scar was marching up and down the aisle for awhile. When he went back into his office, I opened the book and connected the antenna and earphone wires. Think I had some Fahlenstock clips the Priest had given me. I ran the cord under my shirt and place the earphone in my ear. It was invisible and it worked!!!! During the day, I could hear the local country western station from La Salle-Peru. But in the evening and night, I could listen to all the great rock and roll music from WLS in Chicago. It worked wonderfully!!!

For many days, I enjoyed my secret radio. I kept in touch with world events, as we were completely blocked from TV and other outside contact in the school.



Continued on Page 12

# *Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul*

## **"Hollingsworth Hires Muscle to Clean Up the Ham Bands"**

*Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 24 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".*

At the recent 2007 Dayton Hamvention® FCC forum, well-known FCC Enforcement Bureau Director Rolly Hollingsworth W3XYZ, announced a new enforcement initiative to assembled members of the Ham community. The initiative, the result of a partnership with the FCC, the ARRL Public Relations Committee and the Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Network, will team select members of the cast of the television series "Sopranos" and FCC Enforcement Division personnel.

At the afternoon forum, Hollingsworth, flanked by "Sopranos" star, James Gandolfini, who plays fictional New Jersey mob boss Tony Soprano on the series, explained the reasoning behind the partnership. "Extensive ARRL focus group interviews with members of the Amateur Radio community uncovered an unexpected phenomena – an extraordinarily high level of recognition for the show's cast among North American Amateur Radio operators. This unusually high recognition factor included James Gandolfini, the star of the "Sopranos."

ARRL Spokesperson Terry Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat provides background on the "Sopranos" partnership. "In our market research, the League learned that most members of the general public cannot distinguish between the characters portrayed on the Sopranos and the actors in real life or "out of character" in television production parlance. This

high level of awareness of the Sopranos show, combined with the unusually high recognition factor among Hams creates a situation where FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel are perceived to be members of the New Jersey crime syndicate." Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat adds "After extensive discussions with the ARRL, FCC officials realized this high level of recognition could be used to achieve a never-before seen level of compliance with Part 97 regulations, resulting in improved FCC-sanctioned on-air behavior".

One outcome of this partnership has been a new strategy announced by Hollingsworth and FCC staff to deal with persistent on-air problems on the U.S. Ham bands. In an unusual approach to enforcement at the FCC, Gandolfini will lead field level enforcement visits to Ham shacks to encourage compliance to FCC regulations. Recently, "Chicken Noodle Soup" was allowed to accompany Hollingsworth, Gandolfini, and the Sopranos cast on one recent high-profile enforcement visit.

Acting on information gleaned from months of on-air monitoring and sophisticated direction-finding technology at FCC headquarters at Gettysburg, PA, FCC Enforcement Team members are dispatched to a non-descript suburban residence with a 52' Ham Radio tower in the back yard, topped by a Yagi antenna. However, this is no ordinary Ham station. The residence is identified as the home of habitual HF jammer Edward "The Quacker" Le Duc, no stranger to the FCC's Enforcement Division. Le Duc is nicknamed "The Quacker" because of his use of a duck call to disrupt activities on various HF public service nets.

As the FCC Enforcement Team rolls up to the residence, it is immediately evident this is not a typical FCC enforcement visit. Eschewing the standard issue FCC Ford white panel van, these FCC officials are traveling in a fleet of black Lincoln Town Cars, long a favorite of the

## *Chicken Noodle Soup Continued*

New Jersey "mob" portrayed on the Sopranos television show. Identifying themselves to the resident, the FCC Enforcement Team members are invited into the home by a resident who appears at once awestruck and yet nervous at the thought of having what is perceived to be members of the New Jersey "mob" asking about Ham Radio activity.

In addition to the usual Sopranos cast members, accompanying Hollingsworth and Gandolfini are three FCC "heavies" or staff electrical engineers, carrying state-of-the-art equipment designed to identify and record out of band transmissions for later use in court. The three are large, muscular, and carry extensive electrical instrumentation, packed into violin and cello cases, designed to appear consistent with the Sopranos show theme.

"FCC Enforcement Bureau, m'am" Gandolfini states matter-of-factly, "Edward Le Duc at home this evening? Oh, of course... he's done nothing wrong. We simply want to talk with him." The still-surprised resident comments; "Oh yes, he's... he's... in 'the shack'. I'll go and get him." The lady of the house turns and unsteadily calls to her Ham husband "Oh Edward, there are some... ah... gentlemen here from the FCC who want to talk with you."

Emerging from the radio room, Edward at once appears to recognize Hollingsworth, Gandolfini and the cast members, and realizes he is in some sort of trouble. His cheerful contenance immediately gives way to an expression of pained apprehension. Gandolfini steps forward and states in a husky New Jersey accent "FCC Enforcement Special Agent Gandolfini, sir, nice to meet you. These gentlemen here are my... ah, associates", introducing in turn the serious faced group of men attired in dark business suits.

Gandolfini continues. "Sir, this is a bit embarrassing, but we've had some reports that someone in this neighborhood has been

disrupting operations on the, ah... 75 meter US Amateur phone band? You familiar with this band, sir?" Gandolfini asks politely. Edward responds in the affirmative. "A net control station for the "Enchilada Traffic Net" reports *someone* has been interfering with operations on the net, making 'animal noises'. As you know Edward, this is not a good thing. You know... interfering with operation of a net." Le Duc protests, stating he knows nothing of the activities mentioned by the FCC Enforcement Team. Before he can finish his protests, Gandolfini interrupts, waving his hand, reassuring him, "Now, now, Edward we're not saying *you* were the Ham whose responsible for this offensive, unlawful, on-air behavior which reflects poorly on our hobby".

At this point, League Spokesperson Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat explains "The FCC and Enforcement Team members now utilize what is referred to in FCC parlance as "GCBC Modality" or the "Good Cop Bad Cop" approach. Gandolfini explains the possible consequences of an offender's actions, while seeming to acknowledge the Ham's innocence. All the while, FCC monitoring equipment and voice recognition software identifies Le Duc as the offending operator - having him "dead to rights". Enforcement Team member Tony Sirico, known to Sopranos viewers as "Paulie Walnuts", slowly walks over to the Amateur's operating position, focusing on the HF radio at the center of the counsel as Gandolfini continues. "You have *such* nice equipment. Wouldn't it be a shame if all this nice equipment were to meet with some unfortunate accident? Wouldn't it, Edward? Now, I'm sure you have equipment insurance with the ARRL, but I'm sure it took a long, long time to assemble and connect such a nice collection of equipment." Nodding slowly, Le Duc seems to understand the implication. As Gandolfini speaks, Paulie admiringly strokes the cabinets of Le Duc's Kenwood 980 Special, all the while smiling menacingly.



Continued on page 15

# Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello again,

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a brush fire in the eastern part of El Cajon. It looked as though it might get larger, so I called several key people in the VIP Red Flag Patrol to alert them that we might be called upon to provide some sort of communication. I am glad to report we were not used.

Where am I going with this? I would like to have a core of people that can be ready at any time, day or night, to respond to any incident that may happen with two meter or 440 radios that can be put in a CAL FIRE vehicle, as well as a mag mount antenna. Yes, I can always rely on A.R.E.S, R.A.C.E.S., REACT and others to come out and help when needed. But most of these people are still working full time, so that is why I would like to have several "old retired" folks that could be used in an emergency. Our fire season is now all year. As you know and seen or read, our fire danger is very high right now due to less than normal rainfall over the last two or three years. If you are available, let me know via my e-mail, phone call or see me at our next meeting. Regardless whether you become part of our VIP Program, I urge everyone of you to get involved with some sort of emergency communication organization and be ready to help out in any type of disaster. Amateur radio has a long and proud history of helping whenever a disaster has occurred. Let's not let this tradition become a thing of the past.

Our club picnic is this Saturday, and I hope that many of our club members will attend this get together, where all of our friends can talk about amateur radio and other topics, as well as eat some good food.

REACT has a couple of upcoming events that they need help with; one is August 16<sup>th</sup>, which starts at 10 p.m. on Saturday and ends at 3 a.m. on Sunday morning; the second is on September 19-21 when the Thunder Boat Races will take place. So if you can, please help our friends in REACT by volunteering to help them. They have helped me by going on patrol on the 4th of July. Thank you REACT.

As always, please remember our brave men and women who serve our country so we can have the freedom that we have.

GODBLESS THEM, EVERY ONE.  
Rich, N6NKJ

# CREST continued

I reported to the other students what was happening outside. Things were great. But then it happened.

Some jealous student must have ratted me out. Scar came over and picked me up, tossing me across the aisle. He went through my books until he found the clandestine Textbook and opened it up. Needless to say, the Crystal Radio book was HISTORY at that point, and my headphone was confiscated. I was grilled and tortured to divulge where I had gotten the parts, but I wouldn't talk. Scar gave up and I was put back in the study hall.

The rest of the year was just as sullen, but I didn't dare try to repeat my secret radio project. Too many double-crossing students who were spies for Scar. Finally, June came and I was released back to my parents. They didn't believe a word of the stories I had to tell them, and it had cost them a lot, so I was allowed to go back to public school, a much easier and cordial environment. They had Electronics classes in the school which I easily aced, and was the Radio expert of the school. I got my Novice license in 1968, almost 40 years ago to the day, and that was that.

Anyone else have fun times at boarding school?

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ  
Curator  
Crest Radio Museum



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# Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



## Welcome New Members

Alton Lindsey	N6VOC	WAMO # 1761
Ellen Lindsey	N6MYG	WAMO # 1762
Eva Lindsey	KI6RVX	WAMO # 1763
Doris Kukuk		WAMO # 1764

The follow badges are ready for pick up at the August Meeting:

N6FRX	KG6NDS	KI6RVX
KI6MUH	KI6UYA	KF6AHX
KI6KTZ	W6GRK	Doris
KG6HBX	N6VOC	
KI6NHK	N6YMG	

### ARCEC 2009 Membership Drive

*September 1, 2008 to December 1, 2008*

Our membership drive is coming up; dues may be paid at the Sept., Oct., or Nov. meeting or by mail. In order to be eligible to enter the membership drawing to be held at the Christmas Party, your individual and/or family membership dues for the year 2009 must be received and/or post marked on or before December 1, 2008 and dues for 2008 must be paid by current members. You will receive one ticket from the membership chair at the meeting when you pay your 2009 membership dues or at the Christmas Party if you pay by mail. Only one ticket will be given per individual and/or family membership. Even if you renew your 2008 membership when you pay your 2009 membership dues, you will only receive one ticket for the 2009 membership drawing. Please see the ARCEC website for more details on the 2009 Membership Drive. The drawing prize as well as the 2009 Budget will be based on the dues collected during this drive, so please renew early!

73,  
Ann, KC6TBG

For new members who join during the year, the dues for the year they join will be prorated through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they join, and the next years dues will be due on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they join. The Dues Payment Schedule will be as follows:

### Individual Dues Membership:

\$18.00 per year (\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

\*plus \$18.00 for the following year

### Family Dues Membership:

\$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$ 10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

\*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG  
Membership Chair



Some Young Members Burning up Six Meters!

## ARCEC Meeting & Field Day Photos



## Minutes Continued

CAL Fire Report: RICH, N6NKJ – Red Flag Patrol was July 4<sup>th</sup>. Steve and Linda drove 150 miles in the back country. They did report a suspicious person walking with a black trash bag over his shoulder. Fortunately, it was an otherwise uneventful 4<sup>th</sup> of July and some people even reported rain! There were nine routes with two people in each car, and five routes in North County. Media hits kept many busy. We always need more people for Red Flag Patrol and would like to see a core group that is dedicated to CAL Fire. Pete Scully is going to be teaching Wildfire Training in Escondido in an auditorium in the Sheriff's Department. Talk to Rich or Steve Early about attending that.

Health and Welfare: Floyd, AF6BC talked to June Collier who says Bill is under the weather today. Paul mentioned that his mother is up and around so she's doing well and wants to get her license!

Prize Table: Tom brought some items from a silent key K6HLU for the prize table. Stogie donated an almost new Canon printer for the prize table.

Upcoming Events: There are sign up sheets in the back for the Mother Goose Parade and for the Firehouse 6 Open House, or contact Rich, N6NKJ.

Social Chair report: We need to thank Cal for bringing donuts and Andy brought treats for the meeting.

Extra Class will be held the second week in September. There is an ARES meeting this Saturday in Scripps memorial off Genesee. It has antenna friendly parking but does cost \$2.

Swapmeet: N6JOJ said if anyone wants to sell something at the swap meet, just show up and sell it at the table. Carl made \$120 selling some of his old equipment this month.

Raffle time!

At 9:15 the meeting closed.

Submitted by  
Dan N6ERD  
Secretary



## Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

Having obtained the solemn promise of the Ham operator in question to cease forever his offensive behavior, Gandolfini, Hollingsworth, and FCC staff excuse themselves and start to leave the Ham shack. As he turns to leave, with Director Hollingsworth looking on, Gandolfini pauses to kiss the hand of an awestruck Mrs. Le Duc. It is a made-for-television moment. Overcome by the emotion of the moment, a repentant Le Duc grabs his logbook and blurts out to a surprised Gandolfini: "Would you autograph this for me?" Without hesitation, the Sopranos star obliges, addressing a personal comment with a government-issue Sharpie® marker. He stops momentarily and grinning, says to Hollingsworth "Ya gotta 'poke em' and ya gotta stroke 'em", referring to the scene which has just played out, involving elements of co-operation and enforcement.

In a related story, the FCC recently announced plans to consider re-locating Commission offices to a scene familiar to regular viewers of The Sopranos. The decrepit "Hydro P UF" Plant, featured in opening minutes of "Sopranos" and located in Newark, New Jersey, once produced Hydro Pruf, a water repellent and was abandoned in 1988. The plant has been proposed as future offices for FCC Enforcement Division, saving taxpayers thousands in rent charges. While New Jersey has the most toxic waste sites in the country, it is also an ideal place for low cost real estate and according to FCC staff, will do much to enhance the "tough guy" image of the Enforcement Division.

*Editors note: You don't have to be a member of the New Jersey 'mob' to know that diminishing the pleasure of other's on-air activity is just plain wrong. Readers are reminded to always adhere to the Radio Amateur's Code when on the air.*

Morris AZ6CW

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022



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### Is your membership ready to expire?

Membership Drive this September!

Early Bird Prize at the Christmas Dinner Party.

Present Member dues must be paid up before 2009  
dues are paid. See Membership Report for details.

## For Ham Radio Classes **EXTRA!!**

Please Contact:  
Mike Maston  
N6OPH  
(619) 296-9067

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Please Visit Our Website at  
[www.WA6BGS.org](http://www.WA6BGS.org)

### VEC Testing Sites

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday:	El Cajon      10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday:	Carlsbad      9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday:	North Park      10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Chula Vista      8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 <sup>th</sup> or last Saturday:	Escondido      9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info  
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

